

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief Lowell M. Porter**

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## Office of the State Fire Marshal

Captain Fred Fakkema  
Government and Media Relations  
(360) 753-5299 – office  
(360) 753-5469 – fax  
<http://www.wsp.wa.gov>

**May 26, 2004**

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Anjela Foster  
(360) 753-0493**

### Orcas Motel Fire Investigation

Chief Lowell Porter announced today that the investigation of the Orcas Motel fire that occurred on Wednesday, April 7, 2004, in Westport has been completed. It was determined that the fire was caused by cooking in the kitchen of an apartment on the second floor. The investigation enlisted the cooperation of multiple jurisdictions that included the Westport Fire Department, Westport Police Department, Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office, Cosmopolis Fire Department, the Grays Harbor County Coroner's Office, Westport City officials, and the Washington State Patrol – Office of the State Fire Marshal.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal reported that hotel resident Jasmine Keyes was instrumental in saving the lives of the occupants of the apartment. Prior to the arrival of fire department units, Jasmine entered the apartment where the fire started and attempted to extinguish the fire with a fire extinguisher. Although the fire was not completely extinguished, the spread of the fire was slowed enough to allow occupants time to evacuate. Jasmine was then able to assist another occupant of the apartment in evacuating safely out a back door.

Westport firefighters rescued three occupants trapped in an apartment also located on the second floor. Firefighters were unable to rescue a 33-year-old female when the fire flashed. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. Three citizens were injured and taken to Grays Harbor Community Hospital. Other residents were alerted of the fire by the building's smoke alarms and were able to evacuate to safety.

The American Red Cross is assisting 18 occupants who were displaced by the fire. Several businesses were impacted by building and road closures.

*The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State, including inspections of state-licensed facilities, plan review of fire protection systems and school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data. For additional information, you may visit our Web page at [www.wsp.wa.gov](http://www.wsp.wa.gov) and then click on "State Fire Marshal."*

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